

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 19-40 are pending. Claims 19, 27, and 28 have been amended. New claims 34-40 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 19-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ofek in view of Fiacco. Applicants traverse the rejection. Claim 19 recites, "a first communication interface coupled to a first network switch to receive a data access request from one or more hosts that are couple to the first switch; a second communication interface coupled to a second network switch to communicate with first and second storage subsystems including first and second storage areas, respectively, to store data associated with the hosts, the first and second storage subsystems being provided at remote locations from the storage server; and a virtual device driver component that is operable to present a virtual storage area to the hosts, the virtual storage area being mapped to the first and second storage areas of the first and second storage subsystems, wherein the storage server is configured to receive a first data request including a virtual address identifying a first location in the virtual storage area from one of the hosts and generate a second data request directed to the first storage subsystem, the second data request including a storage address identifying a second location in the first storage area that is mapped to the first location in the virtual storage area, and wherein the storage server is configured to change mapping of the first location in the virtual storage area to a third location in the second storage area in connection with a data migration operation." Ofek does not disclose the first and second storage subsystem that are located remotely from the storage server in the manner recited. Fiacco does not remedy this deficiency. Claim 19 is allowable.

Claim 27 recites, "a backend storage server coupled to a plurality of hosts via a network; a first storage subsystem including a first storage controller and a plurality of first storage devices, the first storage controller configured to control access to the first storage devices, the first storage devices defining a first storage area, the first storage subsystem being coupled to the backend storage server via the network; and a second storage subsystem including a second storage controller and a plurality of second storage devices, the second controller being configured to control access to the second storage devices, the second storage devices defining a

second storage area, the second storage subsystem being coupled to the backend storage server via the network, wherein the backend storage server, first storage subsystem, and second storage subsystems are all located remotely from each other, wherein the backend storage server presents a virtualized storage area to the hosts using at least the first storage area of the first storage subsystem, wherein the backend storage server is configured to receive a first data request including a virtual address identifying a first location in the virtualized storage area from one of the hosts and generate a second data request directed to the first storage subsystem, the second data request including a storage address identifying a second location in the first storage area that is mapped to the first location in the virtualized storage area, and wherein the backend storage server is configured to change mapping of the first location in the virtualized storage area from the second location in the first storage area to a third location in the second storage area in connection with a data migration operation." Ofek does not disclose the above features. Fiacco does not remedy this deficiency of Ofek. Claim 27 is allowable.

Claim 28 recites, "receiving a first data request from a first host at a backend server, the backend server being coupled to a plurality of hosts and first and second storage subsystems via a network, the backend server presenting a virtualized storage area to the plurality of the hosts, the first data request including a virtual address identifying a first location in the virtualized storage area, the first and second storage subsystems being located remotely from the backend server; generating a second data request at the backend server, the second data request including a storage address identifying a second location in a first storage area that is mapped to the first location in the virtualized storage area, the first storage area being defined by the first storage subsystem; transmitting the second data request to the first storage subsystem to satisfy the first data request received from the first host; and changing mapping of the first location in the virtualized storage area from the second location in the first storage area to a third location in a second storage area in connection with a data migration operation, the second storage area being defined by the second storage subsystem, the data migration operation involving migrating data stored in the first storage area to the second storage area." Ofek does not disclose the above features. Fiacco does not remedy this deficiency of Ofek. Claim 28 is allowable.

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Amdt. dated June 10, 2005  
Reply to Final Office Action of January 10, 2005

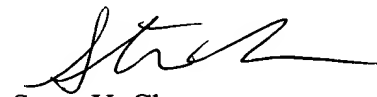
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**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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